

CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia is an infection caused by a bacterium (*Chlamydia trachomatis*). *Chlamydia trachomatis* is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). It can also be spread from mother to baby at birth. The bacterium is found in infected body fluids from the penis or vagina and spread by direct sexual contact. Younger adults are most commonly infected.

If you think you or your partner has Chlamydia, see your doctor, local clinic, or come to the SE STD Clinic and don't have sex.

If you have Chlamydia, tell your partners so they can be treated.

Symptoms

Men (30% of infected men have no symptoms):

- Discharge from the penis, or rectum
- Pain when urinating
- Pain and swelling in the testicles
- Itching of the head of the penis

Women (70% of infected women have no symptoms):

- Pain and itching of the vulva or vagina
- Discharge from the vagina
- Pain with urination
- Pain when having sex

Is Chlamydia serious?

- Yes! If you are a woman and have chlamydia you could become sterile (unable to produce children). PID (pelvic inflammatory disease), a serious pelvic infection in women, is a common result of untreated chlamydia infection. In PID, the bacteria moves from the vagina up through the cervix and damage the tubes and make a woman more likely to have a "tubal pregnancy."

How is Chlamydia treated?

- Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics. Commonly used are Doxycycline for one week or Azithromycin (single dose).
- Since the symptoms of chlamydia and gonorrhea are similar and both diseases can occur at the same time, everyone treated for gonorrhea should also be treated for chlamydia.

How can I prevent from getting chlamydia?

- Avoid unprotected sex. Always use condoms.
- Avoid infection by being monogamous, having only one sex partner.

SE STD Clinic
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Clinic Hours: 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Monday – Friday